

Application No. 08/941,132
Attorney Docket No. 649-619P

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deproteinizing natural rubber and then epoxidizing the natural rubber.

Please add the following new claims:

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Claim 11. The process according to claim 9, wherein the deproteinized natural rubber has a nitrogen content of less than 0.10 % by weight.

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Claim 12. The process according to claim 10, wherein the deproteinized natural rubber has a nitrogen content of less than 0.10 % by weight.

Claim 13. The process according to claim 9, wherein the deproteinized natural rubber is graft copolymerized with an organic compound having an unsaturated bond selected from the group consisting of methacrylic acid, acrylic acid, methyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethylmethacrylate, acrylo-nitrile, vinyl acetate, styrene, acrylamide and vinylpyrrolidone.

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Claim 14. The process according to claim 9 wherein the graft copolymerization step has a graft efficiency of 62.7% or more.

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cont

Claim 15. The process according to claim 9, wherein the deproteinized natural rubber has a nitrogen content of less than 0.05 % by weight.

Claim 16. The process according to claim 9, wherein the deproteinized natural rubber has a nitrogen content of less than 0.02 % by weight.

Claim 17. The process according to claim 10, wherein the epoxidation step has an epoxidation rate which is sufficient to produce an epoxidized deproteinized natural rubber having an epoxidation ratio of 26.0% or more in 5 hours.

Claim 18. The process according to claim 10, wherein the deproteinized natural rubber has a nitrogen content of less than 0.05 % by weight.